

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 11 of the application (lines 5-10) with the following paragraph:

Marked-up version

In an embodiment of the invention, the graphically connected network of the set of data objects 134 may be reflected in a relationship table 140. The relationship table 140 may contain a mapping, or editable relationship, between the physical or default database representation of the data objects, and the user-defined hierarchy of the data objects. Other techniques for imaging or storing the data object hierarchy according to the invention may be used, such as the creation of a binary tree, linked list or other logical structure.

Clean version

In an embodiment of the invention, the graphically connected network of the set of data objects 134 may be reflected in a relationship table 140. The relationship table 140 may contain a mapping, or editable relationship, between the physical or default database representation of the data objects, and the user-defined hierarchy of the data objects. Other techniques for imaging or storing the data object hierarchy according to the invention may be used, such as the creation of a binary tree, linked list or other logical structure.

Please replace the second full paragraph of page 11 (lines 11-21) as follows:

Marked-up version

The resulting network of data objects, with one or more of the objects each being traversable or navigable to one or more other data objects without constraint, results in a data hierarchy 142 such as illustratively shown in Fig. 5 as a network graph (i.e., connecting nodes

together) and particularly as a directed network graph (i.e., showing directionality between nodes). In the illustrated hierarchy, the set of data objects 134 is now linked in a flexible manner according to user selection, here to link market type objects, region object and a store object in a ring. Each of the connections in the data hierarchy 142 may be followed, and each of the linked set of data objects 134 may be clicked into to gain a view of underlying data. Other data objects, connection topologies and relationships are possible, including for instance a three dimensional linkage. However, according to the invention the data hierarchy 142 may be used to obtain views into the data, run reports, searches and otherwise manipulate the information content, without being constrained by the physical layout of the underlying media storing the data.

Clean version

The resulting network of data objects, with one or more of the objects each being traversable or navigable to one or more other data objects without constraint, results in a data hierarchy 142 such as illustratively shown in Fig. 5 as a network graph (i.e., connecting nodes together) and particularly as a directed network graph (i.e., showing directionality between nodes). In the illustrated hierarchy, the set of data objects 134 is now linked in a flexible manner according to user selection, here to link market type objects, region object and a store object in a ring. Each of the connections in the data hierarchy 142 may be followed, and each of the linked set of data objects 134 may be clicked into to gain a view of underlying data. Other data objects, connection topologies and relationships are possible, including for instance a three dimensional linkage. However, according to the invention the data hierarchy 142 may be used to obtain views into the data, run reports, searches and otherwise manipulate the information content, without being constrained by the physical layout of the underlying media storing the data.